

## **SANS AGM MINUTES 2019**

21st September 2019 @17h45-18h45

Meeting Room 11, Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Members present: Patricia Swart, Sian Hemmings, Antonio Lentoer, Natasha Kiltchin, Sylvanus Toikumo, Jacqui Womersley, Lihle Qulu, Tanya Calvey

Non-members present: Sahba Besharati, Dorit Hockman, Morne Du Plessis, Aqeedah Roomaney, Allegra Moodley, Ereshio Gabier, Allan Kalungi, Marlina Kniger.

Apologies: Antoinette Burger, Ruth Levin-Vorster, Kimberley Williams, Brian Harvey

**1. SANS AGM 2018** at Simonsberg room, Spier Estate, Stellenbosch, Western Cape. Minutes were approved via email.

### **2. Membership to SANS <http://saneurosoc.co.za/register/>**

a. Current number of members are 200, our aim for 2020 is 250

b. Mechanisms to stimulate membership

i. SANS members increased by 20% through Brain Matters in Wits. Hockins (UCT) and Dorit (UCT) also promised to stimulate membership in their own institutions. Antonio from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) (former name, Medunsa) expressed his interest in being part of SANS as a member and wanting to be more visible in his lab through collaborations and adding members to SANS.

ii. The fee for the different SANS members was not discussed in detail as we still need to get an NPO number with an automated payment method. Christopher mentioned that he was working on the payment method being more effective.

### **3. SANS social media and website**

Report back on website -Jacqueline Womersley

Jacqui reported on this point, that most of the posts on the website are related to IBRO schools, funding opportunity, courses and education posts. Feedback from attending members was that SANS website is not visible enough and that perhaps members link the website to their existing lab websites. There was also a request for more SANS cards. Also to encourage lecturers to add the SANS logo when they give lectures.

Posting on the website is managed by Jacqueline Womersley

### **4. Report back Education page- Jacqueline Womersley:**

Jacqui reported that the education page is updated now and then and that the 2020 education portfolio is under development.

### **5. Report back Social Media – Antoinette Burger**

Antoinette's report for Facebook stated that we have grown from 472 likes and 497 followers. It has grown tremendously since 2018. Our Instagram account is also doing well. Antoinette and

EXCO members post pictures and articles. She mentioned that the Twitter page was not as active. Tanya volunteered to manage the Twitter account.

## **6. SANS 2018 symposium**

Jacqui reported that CoBNeST was a successful conference but also expensive. This led to losing a lot of student participation but that it was great to have a wider range of basic science discipline.

## **7. SANS Travel Award winners**

- Best poster: Natasha Kitchen
- Best oral presentations: Sahba Besharati, Dorit Hockman

## **8. 2020-2023 SANS symposia**

i. 2020 University of the Witwatersrand- Tanya Calvey

All were in support of the SANS symposium being hosted in Johannesburg

Tanya added that this symposium will be held in collaboration with several Wits research groups.

A few suggestions were made regarding venue, dates and possible collaborations. Planning will be finalized early 2020 and Tanya will inform EXCO on progress.

ii. 2021 Biological Psychiatry / CoBNeST: Womersley and Nathaniel McGregor (SANS CoBNeST liaisons) on feedback received.

Report: Still no decision made yet on 2021

iii. 2022- UKZN- hosted by Lihle Qulu

iv. 2023- Possible Biological Psychiatry

## **9. Transformation (Lihle Qulu, Nathaniel Mc Gregor, Kimberley Williams)**

a. Transformation goals and current SA charter

Report: Lihle brought forward that she had talks alongside stats from Terry Oakley-Smith who runs Diversy-T aimed at bring effective transformation around South African Institutions. SANS needs to be more inclusive if it is to impact at the level it seeks. She also raised that SANS EXCO is dominantly female and no male at all. Another point raised was that inclusiveness will need to bring in people at EXCO from other provinces as EXCO is mostly Cape Town making it worse that she is now also @ SUN. There is still not enough color in SANS EXCO. One of the ways of being inclusive is through capacity building. Promote collaboration to keep in touch. Antonio Medunsa expressed how much this would impact him positively as he feels excluded from the Neuroscience community. We also need to have a diverse representation of other neuro related disciplines.

b. Capacity development programme and public engagement

One of the ways suggested to promote capacity building was a workshop on the next SANS meeting that will be like a speed dating. So everyone can know what the other person is doing so as to promote collaboration. We proposed that the workshop be done at the Wits meeting led by Lihle.

## **10. SANS outreach activities**

- a. UKZN 2nd Neuroscience Symposium 5 July- Lihle Qulu. This was a successful event with involvement from UKZN Department of Psychiatry.
- b. Genetics of Movement Disorders – 2 November 2019- Jacqueline Womersley
- c. Wits Cortex Club activities supported by SANS- Tanya Calvey
  - i. Zoltan Molnar from Oxford- Subplate cortical layer and its implications in psychiatric and cognitive dysfunction- 20 March 2019
  - ii. Co-hosted with Wits NeuRL- Super-recognisers by Dr Josh Davis- 10 July 2019
  - iii. Co-hosted with Wits NeuRL- Disorders of Consciousness- Prof Barbara Wilson- 13 August 2019 at the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital

## **11. BAW**

To promote neuroscience to school learners, Ruth and Jaqui filmed several video clips of academics working in diverse neuroscience fields. The content was aimed at grade 10-12 learners. Tamzyn Sullivan kindly edited these clips into a cohesive whole. Despite having to exclude several videos owing to poor sound quality, the participating people were delighted with the product. Antoinette successfully organized to have the videos distributed to schools in the Western Cape through her contact in the Western Cape Education Department. The plan is to do something bigger and better for 2020. All ideas for BAW must go through Jacqui.

## **12. Report on IBRO**

SANS' bid to hosting IBRO 2023 in SA on the 21 September Korea DeGo. Fleur to present at the conference with the help of the City of Cape Town municipality.

## **13. SANS and SONA**

Renewal for Corporate Membership for 2019 has been paid by FH  
We are grateful to SONA for their support

## **14. Treasurer report:**

- i. Private client holding are assisting SANS to get NPO status, there will be a need to change a few things on the constitution following feedback from the auditors.
- ii. The next AGM will be the best time to make changes to the constitution or setup an adhoc skype meeting.
- iii. Membership fees only 11 people paid this year, an automated system needs to be set up to improve payments. This is also depended on NPO status. Chris suggested he can add payfast.
- iv. Currently we have R91549.50 savings and R1217 in the current account.
- v. Funding Tanya and Tiro were selected as the fundraising team at the previous AGM as it stands this too awaits financial clearances and NPO status.

## **15. SANS Logo**

Only one person replied so we have to re-advertise.

## **16. Nomination of deputy treasurer**

Fleur nominated Tanya as deputy treasurer and Jacqui seconded the nomination.

## **17. Transformation election**

Lihle was re-elected, Dorit Hockman (UCT), Antonio Lentoer (Medunsa) and Sahba Besharati (Wits).

## **18. Current EXCO**

Chair: Fleur Howells, University of Cape Town ([howellsfleur@gmail.com](mailto:howellsfleur@gmail.com))

Secretary: Tanya Calvey, University of Witwatersrand ([tanya.calvey@wits.ac.za](mailto:tanya.calvey@wits.ac.za))

Treasurer: Sian Hemmings, Stellenbosch University ([smjh@sun.ac.za](mailto:smjh@sun.ac.za))

Deputy-Chair (training for Chair replacement): Jacqueline Womersley, Stellenbosch University ([jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com))

Deputy-Secretary (training for Secretary replacement): Lihle Qulu, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal ([qulul@sun.ac.za](mailto:qulul@sun.ac.za))

Deputy-Treasurer: Tanya Calvey, University of Witwatersrand ([tanya.calvey@wits.ac.za](mailto:tanya.calvey@wits.ac.za))

EXCO members social media, outreach, fundraising, education:

Web Posting & Education Jacqueline Womersley, Stellenbosch University ([jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com))

Antoinette Burger, University of Cape Town ([antburger@gmail.com](mailto:antburger@gmail.com))

Tiro Brombacher, University of Cape Town ([tiro.brombacher@gmail.com](mailto:tiro.brombacher@gmail.com))

Ruth Levin-Vorster, University of Cape Town ([ruth@createbridges.co.za](mailto:ruth@createbridges.co.za))

EXCO Transformation

Lihle Qulu, University of Stellenbosch, ([qulul@sun.ac.za](mailto:qulul@sun.ac.za))

Sahba Besharati, University of the Witwatersrand ([sahba.besharati@wits.ac.za](mailto:sahba.besharati@wits.ac.za))

Dorit Hockman, University of Cape Town, ([dorit.hockman@uct.ac.za](mailto:dorit.hockman@uct.ac.za))

Antonio Lentoer, Medunsa, ([Lentoor.antonio@gmail.com](mailto:Lentoor.antonio@gmail.com))

Co-opted EXCO members:

Vivienne Russell, University of Cape Town ([Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za](mailto:Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za))

Brian Harvey, North West University ([Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za))

Lauren Blake, University of Cape Town ([lblake4759@hotmail.com](mailto:lblake4759@hotmail.com))

Tosin Abiola Olasehinde, University of Fort Hare ([tosinolasehinde26@yahoo.com](mailto:tosinolasehinde26@yahoo.com))